

As noted by the examiner, Hoda does not relate to the recording process at all. Presumably identification of the recording for playback retrieval is accomplished manually at a later time. During playback, the detected (bar) code from the paper or page of the reference is translated by way of a computer into a physical address of the recording on a video disk. The process of manually creating the translation table is tedious and error prone. It is this step that is accomplished automatically by the instant invention.

The patent issued to Bergeron does deal with identification during the recording process and discloses a combined microphone-bar code reader unit for that purpose. While this unit could be used as part of the instant invention, it does not disclose the unique features of this invention.

As clearly disclosed in the pending application, the instant invention requires that the identifying codes be pre-printed on a paper which has a form suitable for the application of handwritten notes with subsequent filing in conventional file cabinets and retrievable when necessary for review or evaluation. It is during this review or evaluation that the identifying bar codes are read to bring up the associated recordings. Applying the methodology disclosed in the instant invention makes the association of the recordings with the notes completely automatic and error free.

Neither the patent issued to Hoda nor the patent issued to Bergeron disclose the integration of voice recording with notes

on bar code identified paper. While, as indicated by the examiner in paragraph 7 of the office action of October 15, 1998, it might have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made "to incorporate the microphone of Bergeron et al into the system of Hoda et al in order to provide Hoda et al with voice recording means", it would not have been obvious to include with that incorporation a requirement that the bar codes on the paper upon which the notes were being recorded also be identified and submitted before the computer would accept the voice recording.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that, with the amendments contained herein, and considering the discussion set forth above, the instant invention is clearly distinguishable over any of the references cited in the office action of October 15, 1998. Therefore it is respectfully requested that claims 1 through 9 of the pending application are now in condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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